

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant **NAUDE, JR. et al.**)) Conf. No. **9703**
Appln. No.: **10/519,235**)
Filed: **December 21, 2004**)
Title: **SHOPPING TROLLEY**)

Patent No.: **7,427,080**)
Issued: **September 23, 2008**)
Attorney Docket No. **169-83844**)
Customer No. **22242**)

This Request for Certificate of Correction
was electronically filed today, April 22,
2009, using the U.S. Patent and Trademark
Office's EFS Web

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Mail Stop CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTIONS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.323, the above-specified Patentee
through his attorneys respectfully request that a Certificate of Correction be issued for
the above-referenced patent to correct the following error. A Certificate of Correction
(form PTO 1050) incorporating the change is enclosed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, Column 11, Line 63; after "claim" delete "2" and insert "1".

REMARKS

The above-requested change represent an error which occurred during printing of the patent. Attached is a copy of the last Amendment filed April 3, 2008, showing that the numeration of the claims was changed and that claim 3 (27) depends on claim 1 (25). Inasmuch as this error(s) occurred on the part of the Patent Office, it is believed that issuance of a Certificate of Correction is appropriate and should be issued without expense to the patentee and such is respectfully requested.

Please send the Certificate to:

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Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By:


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It is, of course, a further advantage of the invention that, while not in use as a shopping trolley, the shopping trolley 10, 60, 100 conveniently provides a boot organizer. Also, the closure mechanisms 30 of the bags 22, 24 can prevent potential harm to occupants of a vehicle having no partition between the boot and the passenger compartment of the vehicle, owing to airborne articles of shopping during an accident.

In a development of the invention, which is not shown, an electronic computer can be mounted on a mounting therefor provided on the trolley 10, 60, 100. The computer can be used to store a list of items to be bought, and it is envisaged that the computer can have an interface to a computer system of a shop where articles are to be bought, for downloading information about these articles, such as their price and their location in the shop. Naturally, the computer will be located in an easily accessible manner in the trolley 10, 60, 100.

The tray 12 or the frame members 62 can also be provided with hooks for holding additional shopping bags, and the tray 12 of the embodiment of FIGS. 1-4 can have integrally moulded handles for facilitating carrying or storage of the tray 12, e.g. for carrying thereof in the fashion of a suitcase or for manoeuvring it in a vehicle's boot.

It is also a feature of the invention that it can easily be made of recycled or recyclable materials; and that it can be branded and/or styled to match particular makes and/or colours of vehicles. This is particularly the case with the embodiments of FIGS. 6-9, where advertising material or branding can be provided on the side panels 88.

It is also expected that the invention can form a link between pantry and supermarket, while reducing the unnecessary use of disposable carrier bags. Instead, if desired, it can be left in the boot and its durable bags can be carried between it and the supermarket on one hand, and between it and the pantry on the other.

The invention claimed is:

1. A shopping trolley, comprising:
a holder for holding articles of shopping; and
a wheeled undercarriage connected to the holder, the undercarriage being operable between an erected condition, in which the undercarriage supports the holder at a working height above the ground on wheels, and a collapsed compact condition, for loading of the trolley into a boot of a passenger sedan,
the undercarriage comprising a pair of elongate curved legs, each leg being part-circular in shape and slidably mounted on an associated frame member also having a part-circular shape corresponding to the shape of the leg, to permit telescopic sliding of the legs in a circumferential direction between an extended position in which each leg projects from its associated frame member for engagement of the wheels with the ground, and a retracted position in which each leg is located within its associated frame member.

2. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, which is supportable on a floor of a vehicle boot, when the undercarriage is in its collapsed condition, such that the holder has an orientation relative to the vertical similar to the orientation of the holder when the undercarriage is in its extended condition and supports the holder on the ground, so that the holder provides a boot organizer.

3. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 2, wherein spacing of the holder from the ground surface, when the undercarriage is in its erected condition, is such that the holder is accessible to a person of average height in normal stance, the spacing being greater than 0.45 m.

4. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder defines a storage space which is divided into a number of compartments.

5. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, wherein the undercarriage has a set of four wheels which are arranged in a rectangular configuration in plan view, when the undercarriage is in its erected condition, each roller being freely swivelling about an associated upright swivel axis.

6. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, wherein each leg has mounted thereon a displaceable handle such that, when the leg is in its extended position, the associated handle is located adjacent a rear of the trolley, in its fore-and-aft direction, for gripping by a user, each handle being pivotally displaceable relative to the associated frame member about a pivot axis which extends transversely to the fore-and-aft direction of the trolley in its erected condition, so that, when the leg is in its retracted position, the handle is pivotally displaceable about its pivot axis towards the associated frame member to lie adjacent the frame member.

7. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, wherein each leg has mounted thereon a pair of wheels spaced along the length of the leg, each wheel being spaced from the associated leg by an elongate foot which is pivotally connected at one end thereof to the leg for pivotal displacement about a pivot axis which extends transversely to the fore-and-aft direction of the shopping trolley, an associated wheel being provided at the opposite end of the foot, each foot being pivotally displaceable between a stowed position in which it lies adjacent the associated leg, and an operative position in which it projects transversely from the associated leg, so that the associated wheel is spaced from said leg by the length of the foot for engagement with the ground.

8. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, wherein each part-circular leg and its associated part-circular frame member, in the erected condition of the undercarriage, lie in a more or less vertical plane and define a gap between their ends at a front of the trolley in the fore-and-aft direction of the shopping trolley, said gap being sufficiently large to straddle a rear portion of an open boot of a passenger sedan when the shopping trolley is wheeled towards the boot of the vehicle, in use, so that part of the legs is receivable in a space between the ground and the rear of the vehicle, the frame members engaging the rear of the vehicle, to rest thereon.

9. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, comprising an auxiliary holder for holding articles of shopping, the auxiliary holder being removably and replaceably connectable to the legs to extend between the legs when they are in their extended positions, the auxiliary holder additionally serving as a strengthening cross-member between the legs to enhance lateral stability of the undercarriage.

10. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1, comprising a pair of auxiliary wheels which are respectively mounted on the frame members adjacent ends of the frame members in the fore-and-aft direction of the trolley, such that the auxiliary wheels are engageable with the ground when the extendable legs are in their retracted positions and an end of the trolley opposite the auxiliary wheels is gripped by a user, to permit wheelbarrow-fashion operation of the trolley.

11. A vehicle assembly, comprising:
a shopping trolley as claimed in claim 1; and
a vehicle which includes a body defining a boot, the boot having a securing arrangement specifically for securing the shopping trolley in a stable condition in the boot during normal operation of the vehicle, the shopping trolley being supported with its undercarriage in its collapsed condition on a floor of the boot of the vehicle and

COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	NAUDE, JR. et al.) Conf. No.: 9703
Appln. No.:	10/519,235) _____
Filed:	December 21, 2004) This Response to Office Action
Title:	SHOPPING TROLLEY) was electronically filed using the
) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's
Group) EFS Web, on this date, April 3, 2008
Art Unit:	3618)
Examiner:	Bridget D. AVERY)
)
Attorney Docket No.:	169-83844)
Customer No.:	22242)
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This document is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2007, the time for response having been extended by 1-months extension fee paid concurrently herewith. Please consider the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Cancelled)

1 25. (Currently Amended) A shopping trolley, comprising:

a holder for holding articles of shopping; and

a wheeled undercarriage connected to the holder, the undercarriage being operable between an erected condition, in which the undercarriage supports the holder at a working height above the ground on wheels, and a collapsed compact condition, for loading of the trolley into a boot of a passenger sedan,

the undercarriage comprising a pair of elongate curved legs, each leg being part-circular in shape and slidably mounted on an associated frame member also having a part-circular shape corresponding to the shape of the leg, to permit telescopic sliding of the legs in a circumferential direction being mounted such that it is slidably displaceable between an extended position in which the undercarriage each leg projects from the holder its associated frame member for engagement of the wheels with the ground, and a retracted position in which each leg is located within its associated frame member.

2 26. (Currently Amended) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 25, which is supportable on a floor of a vehicle boot, when the undercarriage is in its collapsed condition, such that the holder has an orientation relative to the vertical similar to the orientation of the holder when the undercarriage is in its extended condition and supports the holder on the ground, so that the holder provides a boot organiser organizer.

3 27. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 25, wherein

spacing of the holder from the ground surface, when the undercarriage is in its erected condition, is such that the holder is accessible to a person of average height in normal stance, the spacing being greater than 0.45 m.

28. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 27, wherein the spacing of the holder from the ground surface, when the undercarriage is in its erected condition, is 0.5-0.6 m.

29. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 25, wherein the holder defines a storage space which is divided into a number of compartments.

30. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 29, comprising a number of durable shopping bags which are receivable in a storage space of the holder, the bags forming a permanent part of accessory, being removable from the holder and being intended for repeated use.

31. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 30, wherein the bags are of a woven flexible textile material.

32. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 30, wherein at least some of the bags are insulated to provide thermally insulated storage chambers.

33. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 30, wherein at least one of the bags has a closure mechanism for openably closing the bags.

34. (Previously Presented) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 25, wherein the undercarriage has a set of four wheels which are arranged in a rectangular configuration in plan view, when the undercarriage is in its erected condition, each roller being freely swivelable about an associated upright swivel axis.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim [[35]] 25, wherein each leg has mounted thereon a displaceable handle such that, when the leg is in its extended position, the associated handle is located adjacent a rear of the trolley, in its fore-and-aft direction, for gripping by a user, each handle being pivotally displaceable relative to the associated frame member about a pivot axis which extends transversely to the fore-and-aft direction of the trolley in its erected condition, so that, when the leg is in its retracted position, the handle is pivotally displaceable about its pivot axis towards the associated frame member to lie adjacent the frame member.

37. (Currently Amended) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim [[45]] 25, wherein each leg has mounted thereon a pair of wheels spaced along the length of the leg, each wheel being spaced from the associated leg by an elongate foot which is pivotally connected at one end thereof to the leg for pivotal displacement about a pivot axis which extends transversely to the fore-and-aft direction of the shopping trolley, an associated wheel being provided at the opposite end of the foot, each foot being pivotally displaceable between a stowed position in which it lies adjacent the associated leg, and an operative position in which it projects transversely from the associated leg, so that the associated wheel is spaced from said leg by the length of the foot for engagement with the ground.

38. (Currently Amended) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim [[45]] 25, wherein each part-circular leg and its associated part-circular frame member, in the erected condition of the undercarriage, lie in a more or less vertical plane and define a gap between their ends at a front of the trolley in the fore-and-aft direction of the shopping trolley, said gap being sufficiently large to straddle a rear portion of an open boot of a passenger sedan when the shopping trolley is wheeled towards the boot of the vehicle, in use, so that part of the legs is receivable in a space between the ground and the rear of the vehicle, the frame members engaging the rear of the vehicle, to rest thereon.

Reply to Office Action of December 4, 2007

39. (Currently Amended) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim [[45]] 25, comprising an auxiliary holder for holding articles of shopping, the auxiliary holder being removably and replaceably connectable to the legs to extend between the legs when they are in their extended positions, the auxiliary holder additionally serving as a strengthening cross-member between the legs to enhance lateral stability of the undercarriage.

40. (Currently Amended) A shopping trolley, comprising:

a holder for holding articles of shopping; and

a wheeled undercarriage connected to the holder, the undercarriage being operable between an erected condition, in which the undercarriage supports the holder at a working height above the ground on wheels, and a collapsed compact condition, for loading of the trolley into a boot of a passenger sedan,

the undercarriage comprising a pair of elongate curved legs, each leg being part-circular in shape and slidably mounted on an associated frame member between an extended position in which each leg is arranged end-to-end with its associated frame member for engagement of the wheels of that leg with the ground, and a retracted position in which each leg is retracted relative to its associated frame member. The shopping trolley as claimed in claim 45, wherein the pair of frame members are displaceable relative to each other between an operative condition in which the frame members lie in parallel planes which are laterally spaced apart in a direction transverse to the fore-and-aft direction of the shopping trolley a sufficient distance to permit temporary storage of articles of shopping in a space defined between the frame members, and a fully collapsed condition in which the frame members lie more or less flat against each other.

41. (Currently Amended) The shopping trolley as claimed in claim [[45]] 25, comprising a pair of auxiliary wheels which are respectively mounted on the frame members adjacent ends of the frame members in the fore-and-aft direction of the trolley, such that the auxiliary wheels are engageable with the ground when the extendable legs are in their retracted

positions and an end of the trolley opposite the auxiliary wheels is gripped by a user, to permit wheelbarrow-fashion operation of the trolley.

42. (Previously Presented) A vehicle assembly, comprising:
 - a shopping trolley as claimed in claim 25; and
 - a vehicle which includes a body defining a boot, the boot having a securing arrangement specifically for securing the shopping trolley in a stable condition in the boot during normal operation of the vehicle, the shopping trolley being supported with its undercarriage in its collapsed condition on a floor of the boot of the vehicle and being secured in a stable condition by the securing arrangement provided by the vehicle.
43. (Cancelled)
44. (Cancelled)
45. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

In the Office Action of December 4, 2007, the Examiner objected to Claim 26, and rejected claims 25, 26, 29, 34-45 under 35 U.S.C.102(b) as anticipated by US 2407385 to Rubin et al. The Examiner also rejected Claims 27-28, and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Rubin et al.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 35, 36, and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and all the intervening claims..

Claim 25 is amended to include all the limitations of claims 35, 44, and 45, and Claim 40 is amended to include the limitations of claims 25, 44 and 45. Accordingly, independent claims 25 and 40 are now considered to be allowable. Claims 36-39 are amended to depend upon now allowable claim 25. Claims 26 to 34 and 41-42 depend either directly or indirectly upon allowable claim 25, and therefore also should be allowed. Claim 26 is also amended to correct the grammatical error as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 35, 43, 44 and 45 are cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims as originally filed and presently amended are novel and patentable over the prior art, and the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required in connection with this correspondence, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

Date: April 3, 2008

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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 7,427,080

APPLICATION NO.: 10/519,235

ISSUE DATE : September 23, 2008

INVENTOR(S) : Naude et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3, Column 11, Line 63:

change "as claimed in claim 2" to -- as claimed in claim 1. --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

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Chicago, IL 60603-3406

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The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.